

PROFILE OF LEORA EISENBERG



Leora Eisenberg is more than your typical high school senior. At seventeen, she is also an activist and prolific writer. She shares her thoughts and perspectives about Israel, antisemitism, and Jewish affairs in the blogs and articles she writes for *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Times of Israel*, and other news organizations. She enjoys connecting with people on the grassroots level through social media and “telling the truth” as she sees it.

Leora writes often about the BDS movement. In 2015, she had a firsthand encounter at the University of Minnesota, which left her frightened. At the time, Leora was running late to a lecture given by a visiting Israeli professor. As she approached the lecture hall, she was met with an aggressive and confrontational group of protesters representing the

BDS movement. The protestors disrupted the lecture shouting, “Netanyahu, you will see! Palestine will be free!” and “Hey hey, ho ho, the occupation has got to go!” They also brandished plastic babies “bloodied by Israeli war crimes.” Once inside the lecture, Leora witnessed one protester after another stand up and interrupt the presentation.

In an article Leora later wrote for *The Jerusalem Post*, she shared her ideas about the protesters: “Their protest in the name of “free speech” went against the free marketplace of ideas that an educational institution should stand for and seek to enshrine.” She went on to say, “By screaming and yelling for a solid forty minutes, they [the protesters] prevented any intellectual exchange ... their belief in “human rights” applied only to a certain group of humans, because, clearly, the pro-Israel humans at the University of Minnesota had no right to free speech or security.”

Leora continues to share her views on events and encourages her peers is to use social media to advance their ideas. She advises, “Be eloquent and use it as a platform to say something important. If there is injustice, speak up. If you see antisemitism, talk about it.”